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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: HIROI, et al.

Serial No.: 09/986,577

Filed: November 9, 2001

For: PATTERN INSPECTION METHOD AND APPARATUS

Group: 2625

Examiner: J. Strege

Conf. No.: 5835

**AMENDMENT**

Commissioner For Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 13, 2006

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 13, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as listed below and as set forth on the following pages:

**Amendments to the Claims**

**Remarks** are included following the amendments